

MINUTES

MONTANA SENATE 58th LEGISLATURE - REGULAR SESSION

COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES

Call to Order: By **CHAIRMAN BILL TASH**, on March 10, 2003 at 2:30 P.M., in Room 405 Capitol.

ROLL CALL

Members Present:

Sen. Bill Tash, Chairman (R)
Sen. Aubyn Curtiss, Vice Chairman (R)
Sen. Sherm Anderson (R)
Sen. Gregory D. Barkus (R)
Sen. Jon Ellingson (D)
Sen. Rick Laible (R)
Sen. Bea McCarthy (D)
Sen. Dan McGee (R)
Sen. Gary L. Perry (R)
Sen. Glenn Roush (D)
Sen. Debbie Shea (D)
Sen. Ken Toole (D)

Members Excused: None.

Members Absent: None.

Staff Present: Krista Lee Evans, Legislative Branch
Roberta Opel, Committee Secretary

Video-taped Committee: These minutes are in outline form only. The log provides a list of participants and a record of official action taken by the committee. A video-taped recording of the meeting is available from the Montana Historical Society.

Committee Business Summary:

Hearing & Date Posted: HB 428, HB 144, HB 433, HB 437
Executive Action: HB 292, HB 89, HB 428, HB 144

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HB 292

Discussion:

2:40pm Begin
2:42pm End
2 min Elapsed time

Motion/Vote: Motion HB 292 BE CONCURRED IN AS AMENDED carried with SEN. KEN TOOLE opposed.

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HB 89

Informational Witnesses and Testimony:

2:43pm Jan Sensibaugh, Director, MT. Dept. of Environmental Quality

Motion/Vote: Motion HB 89 BE CONCURRED IN carried on a roll call vote 8-3 with SENATORS BARKUS, LAIBLE and MCGEE voting no.

HEARING ON HB 428

Opening Statement by Sponsor: REP. JIM KEANE, HD 36, Butte, presented HB 428 to the committee; to eliminate the provision not requiring backfilling of metal mines.

Proponents' Testimony:

3:12pm Angela Janacaro, Montana Mining Association
3:13pm Steve Welch, MT. Dept. of Environmental Quality (EQC)
3:13pm Mike Halligan, Washington Corporation, and MT. Resources
3:14pm Don Allen, Western Environmental Trade Association (WETA)
3:15pm Jeff Barber, Montana Environmental Information Center (MEIC)
3:15pm Cody Ferguson, Northern Plains Resource Council (NPRC)

Opponents' Testimony: None

Questions from Committee Members and Responses:

Closing by Sponsor: REP. KEANE closed on the hearing.

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HB 428

Motion/Vote: SEN. BEA MCCARTHY moved HB 428 BE CONCURRED IN. Motion carried unanimously.

HEARING ON HB 144

Opening Statement by Sponsor: SEN. CHRISTOPHER HARRIS, HD 30, Bozeman, presented HB 144; an act revising certain underground storage tank laws.

Proponents' Testimony:

3:18pm Sandi Olsen, Remediation Division, EQC

Opponents' Testimony: None

Questions from Committee Members and Responses:

3:23pm Begin

3:25pm End

3 min Elapsed time

Closing by Sponsor: SEN. HARRIS closed on HB 144.

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HB 144

Motion/Vote: Motion by SEN. MCCARTHY HB 144 BE CONCURRED IN carried unanimously.

HEARING ON HB 433

Opening Statement by Sponsor: REP. PAUL CLARK, HD, 72, Trout Creek, presented HB 433 to the committee; an act limiting the financial responsibility methods acceptable for reclamation assurance under the Metal Mine Reclamation Law. He presented amendments to HB 433.

Proponents' Testimony:

3:32pm Steve Welch, Administrator, Permitting and Compliance Division, EQC

Opponents' Testimony:

3:32pm Angela Janacaro, Montana Mining Association

3:35pm Don Allen, WETA

Questions from Committee Members and Responses:

3:37pm Begin

3:43pm End

7 min Elapsed time

Informational Witnesses and Testimony:

3:43pm Warren McCullough, Bureau Chief, Environmental Management,
EQC

Discussion:

3:43pm Begin
3:45pm End
2 min Elapsed time

Closing by Sponsor:

3:45pm **SEN. CLARK** closed the hearing on HB 433.

HEARING ON HB 437 (2nd hearing)

Proponents' Testimony:

3:49pm Gilda Glancy, representing Montanans for Responsible
Energy Development, Inc. (MRED)
3:50pm Lani Candelora, Montana Catholic Conference

Opponents' Testimony:

3:51pm Brenda L. Hall, on behalf of Tongue River Water Users
3:57pm Janet Ellis, Montana Audubon Society

Questions from Committee Members and Responses:

3:59pm Begin
4:02pm End
3 min Elapsed time

Closing by Sponsor:

4:03pm **REP. ALAN OLSON, HD 8, Roundup**, closed the second hearing
on HB 437.

ADJOURNMENT

Adjournment: 4:26 P.M.

SEN. BILL TASH, Chairman

ROBERTA OPEL, Secretary

BT/RO